

Canada Weekly

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Flags, festivals and fireworks fête Canada's birthday

Canada's one-hundred-and-eleventh birthday was marked this year by popular festivities in over 1,000 communities, including folk festivals and the annual parade and variety show on Parliament Hill, Ottawa on July 1. Twenty-one gun salutes resounded from coast to coast as millions of Canadians took part in the celebrations.

Festival Canada Committee Chairman G. Hamilton Southam gazed down on some of the events in Ottawa from a 22-metre-high balloon, said to be the largest in North America, which floated serenely across the capital area for a couple of hours on Canada Day. In Montreal, some 3,000 gaily clad participants beat out and danced calypsos in a street parade, and in Vancouver, former Canadian Forces squadron leader Red Morris took off in a home-made single-engine aircraft for a 5,000-kilometre flight non-stop to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to commemorate Canada's birthday. It took him 22 hours and 27 minutes.

During Canada Week, beginning June 25 under the theme "Canada it's you and me/Le Canada, c'est toi et moi", thousands of workers and volunteers scheduled events that ranged from a "twinning" program with exchanges of people between communities throughout the country, festivals, sports (including a national cycling tour and a national skateboard competition), concerts, "jogathons", picnics, lobster fests and regattas. Among the various twinning events were exchanges of service club representatives, pen-pal programs, ham radio hook-ups, as well as exchanges of films and artifacts.

From a handful of scattered ceremonies a decade ago, Canada Week has grown into a huge celebration that included, this year: a golf tournament under the midnight sun in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; a trip to Prince Edward Island for 20 boys from a Newfoundland orphanage; a Little League baseball tournament in North Sydney,

Nova Scotia; a bath tub derby in Kingston, Ontario; a festival of flags (billed as the world's largest) at the Lakehead, Ontario; together with hundreds of events in communities across the land, from bingo games to chess and backgammon marathons, church services, military displays — including breathtaking demonstrations by Canadian Forces Snowbirds jet team and the Sky Hawks parachutists — as well as parties and parades.

Capital capers

For the first time, national capital celebrations involved both Hull and Ottawa, with a "People's Parade" which wound its way to and from the two cities, and included a full day of festivities, beginning with a flotilla down the Rideau Canal and ending at night with a dazzling display of fireworks following a two-hour variety show on Parliament Hill. The show, attended by an estimated 10,000 spectators, featured over 200 performers, and was broadcast on national television in both official languages. It included such artists as René Simard, Murray McLaughlin, the Irish Rovers, Jean-Pierre Ferland, Tommy Hunter, Emmanuelle, Claude Valade and Maureen Forrester, whose rendering of *O Canada* brought tears to the eyes of many.

Folk festivals

In most areas of the country a vast range of folk arts festivals took place. Such curious contrasts as Lebanese dancers and Scottish pipers were seen in New Brunswick; Ukrainian and Quebecois folkloric troupes in Montreal; and the Beth Jacob Sisterhood and La Famille Gilles Doray in Regina, Saskatchewan. In all, some 230 folk arts events organized by the Canadian Folk Arts Council across Canada performed during the week, involving thousands of participants. One program in Halifax, Nova Scotia included 400 performers from Scottish, Polish, Finnish, Greek, Irish, Filipino, Ukrainian, Portu-

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Mary Hawkins

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